

## Building Families Early Childhood Area

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### In The Spot Light

#### Congratulations!

Amy, Michelle and Ann

For completing the Parenting Education Program Peer Review with compliance to all standards and policies.

**Good job! Awesome! Hug yourself! I am proud of you!  
Kiss your brain! Give yourself a hug! Way to go! I like the way you did that! Keep up the good work!**

### Professional Development



#### Welcome to Childcare

A series of training workshops designed to help orient new child care center staff and directors to the field of early childhood care and education. Also makes a great "refresher course" for experienced center staff. Participants receive 12 hours of training credit for completing the series which can be used to satisfy DHS training requirements for 2 years.  
Where: ICCC Applied Science Bldg. 101 in Fort Dodge, IA 50501

When: November 1st  
November 8th  
November 15th  
November 29th  
December 6th  
December 13<sup>th</sup>

Cost: \$20  
Register On Line

Like us on **Facebook** and get updates on legislation and tips on parenting and childcare.

<http://www.facebook.com/home.php#!/BuildingFamilies>



Building Families

# Newsletter

## November 2011

### ECI News

Michelle Walters has taken the position of Parent Coordinator. She began working for Building Families on September 6<sup>th</sup>. Michelle will be providing parent education classes in all three counties, looking at Eagle Grove, Belmond, Humboldt Schools, and Stratford and currently at Webster City Day Care.

Michelle will also be facilitating parent groups at the preschool parent nights, and distributing the Ages and Stages assessments for children ages 2 months to five years. This assessment looks for developmental delays and is completed by the parents. If you are know of someone interested in any of these projects you may contact Michelle at 515-832-1791 Ext: 202.

#### A Note on Training

*With funding cuts it is becoming more difficult for Child Care Resource and Referral and Building Families to provide professional development opportunities for our providers. We find that providers do not want to travel to other counties or work on Saturdays. You are expected to take training each year, just as all of us do, to keep our jobs.*



*There have been times when another ECI area will send an invitation for our area providers to participate in training they are sponsoring. I encourage all of you to consider these training opportunities.*



## Parents Only!! Activity

### You found it!

1. Cut two holes in a cardboard box, one on top and the other at the bottom of the side.
2. Have your infant/toddler drop a toy into the top hole. Watch as he/she tries to reach to toy from the top hole.
3. Then show him/her the hole on the side and how they can take the toy from the box from the second hole.
4. Do this with several different toys, maybe with one that is too big for the hole.
5. Give your child time to figure out how to find the toy again at the bottom of the box.
6. Finding two ways to reach the toy gives him/her practice in solving problems with more than one solution.

### PARENTS!!

#### BEE APPROACHABLE

Don't miss this great parent workshop with Tiffany. Learn about Sex and Text, Relationships' check with teen dating, Teachable Moments, and Communication tips on talking with teens about relationships and sexuality issues.

November 21<sup>st</sup>  
6-9PM

500 Fair Meadow Drive  
515-832-1791 EX: 204  
For questions



Community Links for Families  
Resource Directory

[www.communitylinksforfamilies.org](http://www.communitylinksforfamilies.org)



Building Families

## Child Care Providers Only!! Activity

Are the children in your classroom bored? Do they run around uncontrollably or get into fights? Preschool teachers want to make the classroom stimulating so children feel free to explore and try out their ideas.

- ✦ Colorful strips of ribbon and fabric when tied to a wooden lattice can be used to create a waving wall.
- ✦ Bubble wrap taped to the sidewalk makes a "popping" sound when you step or ride a bike over it.
- ✦ A Library where books are displayed attractively and children can explore ideas with puppets or stuffed animals.
- ✦ A well supplied writing center with paper, different writing utensils, a mailbox, shelf, and laminated alphabet poster.
- ✦ Small writing pads at centers, by the cook book in the kitchen center to write a shopping list, at dramatic play for the doctor to write his notes about the patient.
- ✦ Colored Beads and shape blocks inspire children to sort, compare, and learn about shapes.
- ✦ Collections of shells to create designs.
- ✦ Small cars, people figures, animals, and pipes near the block area encourage children to create structures to house them.
- ✦ Growing things
- ✦ Water table encourages scientific discoveries.

Make each area attractive and inviting, setting the stage for children's play and learning.

### BUILDING FAMILIES PROJECTS:

- ✦ HOPES in-home visitation
- ✦ Parenting Classes
- ✦ Ages and Stages Assessment
- ✦ Resource Information
- ✦ Preschool Scholarships
- ✦ Playground Safety Checks
- ✦ Positive Behavior and Intervention Supports
- ✦ Activity Kits